

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

March 31, 2003      LB 265

Department, and it is signed by the chief of police, but it says that the Omaha Police Department thoroughly opposes...or strongly opposes passage of LB 265, commonly known as the carrying concealed firearms bill. The Omaha Police Department is opposed to passage of the bill for two reasons. One, public safety. LB 265 contains no provision for firearms training to include technical proficiency with a firearm. And I'm not quite sure he's right on that. But...nor does it contain any requirement that permit seekers be trained in the current Nebraska statute as it pertains to justifiable homicide and the various degrees of assault. Issuing permits for individuals to carry concealed firearms without first training them in the dangers of utilizing a weapon, as well as proving their proficiency with a handgun, could lead to innocent persons being injured and/or killed inadvertently. Second thing, officer safety. Gun violence is increasing in the city of Omaha. Omaha police officers are more wary of individuals with guns than ever before. Having citizens armed with concealed firearms without any other identification would be a hazard to police officer safety. The proliferation of firearms on the street would not make for a safer environment for police officers. In sum, due to the negative impact that the passage of LB 265 would have on the state of Nebraska, I would urge, and at this point he's talking to committee members, to not report the bill to the floor. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments. And this letter is dated March 28, 2003. And I think...I'm not sure about his...all of his first premise there on public safety, because there is some training in the bill. But certainly part of that...and the officer safety, I think, is one of the key concerns of a lot of law enforcement. You know, I told you I...earlier this morning, I said that I might mention kind of a personal story, an anecdote that I knew about somebody. And it affects...it applies to the training portion of this bill. It actually involved a police officer who was...well, a very well-situated police officer, who had a lot of responsibility, very well trained, was one of the SWAT team members here in Lincoln. And one evening, he and his wife were going out for an evening, for dinner or something. And they had two small children, and they were going to leave those two small children with a baby-sitter. And the thought occurred to this officer that he needed to move the handgun...